

## Editorial Comments

Clait E. Braun, Editor, 2007

Transitions between editorial offices are rarely smooth as some overlap may occur in assigning referees to manuscripts, duplication of manuscript assignment coding, changes in preferences, and editorial decisions. We are pleased the overall transition from the editing office in Fort Collins, Colorado to that in Tucson, Arizona starting in July 2006 has gone with few glitches. We appreciate the patience of referees and authors during this process which is mostly complete. We also greatly appreciate the support provided by Dr. James A. Sedgwick and his staff during the transition period.

The Tucson office has been functioning since early July with a staff of an editorial assistant (Nancy J. K. Braun) and myself. Eighty new manuscripts have been received since 1 July and we anticipate the total new manuscripts received in 2006 will exceed 170. We anticipate publishing between 80 and 100 manuscripts each year, suggesting there may be a rejection rate of ~40–50%. We are using electronic methodology as much as possible which speeds up manuscript review, routine correspondence with authors, and final editing. One manuscript was sent to and returned by referees, edited, and accepted within one month of original receipt. Decisions on other manuscripts (including the review process) have been made in less than 2 months. The largest delays are in the review process and in responsiveness of authors in returning their revised manuscripts. We have formed a list of possible referees by subject area and are constantly adding to it. Referees who can provide timely reviews within 3 weeks are in demand.

Please contact us (TwilsonJO@comcast.net) if you wish to be considered as a referee.

We are also seeking to attract several Associate Editors for specific subject areas (Central and South America, avian use of habitats). This is an excellent way to learn more about the editing process, contribute to publishing ornithological studies, keep current on research in ornithology, and develop skills useful as an editor. An Associate Editor should be prepared to be responsible for up to 30 new different manuscripts each year. This may result in up to 10 hours of work each week in soliciting reviewers, reminding reviewers, conducting the initial edits of a manuscript, correspondence with authors, and making recommendations to the editor.

Editing is not for the timid as decisions are necessary. It is important to be considerate of authors, supportive of reviewers, and encouraging to those with useful data but with presentations that lack proper analysis and clarity. Referees and editors are human and may not be correct in their suggestions and overall perspective. Our goal is to fairly treat every manuscript received and to consider well-prepared rebuttals.

We appreciate the continuing support of the officers and elected council members of the Wilson Ornithological Society, authors for submitting their important manuscripts to the *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, and especially, to those dedicated people who serve as referees and make the peer review process work. Our goal is to continue publishing the *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* on schedule (March, June, September, and December).